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of maintaining a shop of sufficient size decently to house his workers, and in addition he holds it more advantageous to bargain with isolated workers, some of whom are not wholly dependent upon the work, than to deal with shop workers who can unite in making a common demand for better pay. M. Mény's recital of all the harrowing consequences to the worker of labor conditions that admit only of a miserable existence is sympathetic to a very high degree. Yet he gives scarcely a half dozen pages to the strongest argument for the improvement of such conditions, namely, the great menace to the public health in manufacturing goods in the insanitary homes of generally undernourished and consequently unhealthy people.

The writer does not advocate the suppression of home work even though he calls it a "hideous cancer of the working class." He gives a resumé of the various remedies that have been proposed and tried in France and elsewhere, most of which are inadequate. Motive power in the home, in the sewing trades, does not seem to have lightened the labor, shortened the hours, or increased the daily earnings. Donations to the workers by charitable persons or organizations can not, of course, cover all home workers, entirely apart from the fact that the principle is fundamentally wrong. Trade unions and consumers' leagues, he maintains, do not furnish the solution of the problem. Even persons public spirited enough to become members of these organizations do not themselves make the sacrifices necessary to build up and strengthen them. The author does, however, give to the unions and consumers' leagues, particularly the latter, credit for improvement in certain conditions as regards home work.

M. Mény concludes that in the enactment of labor laws to protect the home from this extension of the factory system, lies the only remedy for the evils that all investigations prove to be common to home work. He cites the operation of the British labor laws protecting woman and child workers in the home and in the factory, and makes a strong case in favor of legal intervention in France.

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EMMA DUKE.

La Protection de la Santé des Travailleurs du Commerce. By LOUIS DELPERIER. (Paris: A. Rousseau. 1910. Pp. vii, 230.)

The old and interesting truth that the problems of work and

workers exhibit many identical features wherever they develop is reinforced in M. Delpérier's book. His thesis is an exposition of the necessity of more adequate protection, primarily from the health point of view, of the "travailleurs du commerce" who are grouped in four classes: (1) clerical and secretarial workers; (2) clerks in large retail stores; (3) makers of food products, and similar professions (cooks, pastry cooks, coffee-house keepers, hairdressers, and pharmacists), and (4) attendants of out-door booths. "The public has been too much accustomed to separate employees (those, according to M. Pic's differentiation, whose work is of an intellectual rather than a material nature) from workers properly so-called." Such employees, he maintains, have held the attention of the legislators only spasmodically and never deeply stirred public opinion. The laboring classes have drawn the first and the largest benefits of legislation, although the work of the employees is often as hard and sometimes less hygienic.

The subject is presented in three main divisions: Present legal protection of health of commercial workers; abuses and their consequences; and methods of combating these abuses. Part I treats of the neglect of legislation for commercial workers until within the last decade, and discusses existing laws. But existing legislation is far from adequate. Part II describes bad conditions under which members of the different groups work, the fatality of which is proved by municipal statistics and the records of patients at l'hôpital Boucicaut. Some of these evils are shown to exist in Belgium, Holland, Germany, Switzerland, and the United States; others are peculiar to the European situation. The solution (Part III) of the health problems resulting from these conditions is recommended through five forces: (1) coöperative action of the interested parties; (2) philanthropic action; (3) legislation; (4) action of consumers; and (5) paid vacations. Frequent comparison with the legislation and its administration, the existing conditions and the methods of betterment in other countries gives the book a universal interest. The subject seems to have been studied and developed primarily through the indirect method, by an extensive study of records and printed material, but it is based on well chosen source material. Some striking figures are presented in support of the thesis. Statistics, for instance, are quoted to show that the number of commercial employees treated at one hospital in Paris has doubled from 1900 to 1909. Fifty per cent of these were thirty years of age or under;

one half of those treated in 1909 had tuberculosis, showing an increase of 80 per cent over 1900. Mercantile employees, M. Delpérier maintains, are particularly subject to tuberculosis, due to conditions under which they work.

The scarcity of literature on commercial employees in the United States supports M. Delpérier's theory that this class has heretofore received only secondary attention. The growing movement of education for secretarial work and salesmanship, for sanitary precautions, and the general awakening of the social conscience call for a wider and more accurate knowledge of conditions, needs, and opportunities of this class of workers in the United States.

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Le Mouvement Ouvrier en Italie. By A. LANZILLO. Translated into French by S. PIRODDI. (Paris: Marcel Rivière et Cie. Pp. 60.)

Lanzillo's *Mouvement ouvrier en Italie* is more interesting for its point of view than its information. The work of an out-and-out revolutionary unionist (syndicalist) he explains the backward proletarian movement of the South on the basis of a discouraged and stupid people rendered so by a niggardly or ill-developed environment. Nevertheless the first of the recent revolts was in Sicily, where the Fasci (leagues of peasants), victims of famine and social injustice, are "perpetual candidates for insurrection." The almost innumerable strikes and struggles between 1898 and 1904, chiefly in the North, found their leadership largely in the socialist party. The period was punctuated by the killing of the king in 1900. The assassin made "a sacrifice which contributed effectively to change the conditions of the country." Unions and strikes multiplied and succeeded; wages rose. The first General Strike came in 1904, and has been repeated nearly every year since. But the party has turned away from the revolutionists, listening for policy's sake to the leadership of opportunist Turati and compromiser Ferri, traitors to the cause of the working class. Even within their own ranks the syndicalists are menaced by the *gangrène électionniste*. Only a movement keenly critical of every existing power will hold to the great revolutionary ideal and so "sweep before it all the ignoble dross of the nineteenth century."

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